

## SRUC Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2020/21-2022/23

### Context

This document sets out SRUC's 2021/22-2022/23 corporate parenting action plan, identifying actions which will further SRUC's engagement and support with students who declare that they are Care Experienced or who have caring responsibilities (Carers). SRUC's Corporate Parenting Group also looks at veterans, travellers, refugees, and any other identified groups, not already cared for. Plan focuses on care experienced and carers, but support offered to all and support needs discussed with Corporate Parenting Group.

SRUC provides formal education opportunities from access to postgraduate level from its six campuses, and by distance learning and work-based learning. Its curriculum focuses on subjects related to the natural economy, providing a vocational educational experience to 2,500 on-campus students annually. SRUC strives to offer each of its students an inclusive and accessible learning environment and equality of opportunity. Class sizes enable an informal but effective student support service. Feedback and retention have shown that this has been appreciated by many students, who report they feel that they are an individual and that SRUC endeavours to provide them with a personalised experience.

Individuals seeking to study at SRUC who have a Care Experienced background can be assured that, as a Corporate Parent, SRUC has made public its commitment of support of those who are Care Experienced. Corporate Parents have statutory duty under Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland Act) 2014, and must:

- + be alert to the needs of care experienced individuals;
- + assess the needs of care experienced individuals seeking entry to or studying with SRUC;
- + promote the interests of care experienced individuals;
- + seek to provide opportunities to those individuals from care experienced backgrounds;
- + take action to help care experienced individuals to access opportunities and make use of services and support provided;
- + take action to improve SRUC in its Corporate Parent role.

In embracing its responsibilities, and in recognition of the impact of early life experience, SRUC extends its offer of Corporate Parenting to all potential or enrolled students who have experience of care or of being looked after (as defined by legislation). In order for SRUC to fully support those potential or enrolled Care Experienced students, SRUC encourages disclosure by individuals of their Care Experienced background at any time during their student journey with SRUC.

SRUC also recognises its commitment to those students who have caring responsibilities. In considering these, it sees many similarities in its response to the needs of carers with those who are Care Experienced. Therefore, this plan also includes SRUC's intended actions to support students who are carers.

To progress its Corporate Parenting responsibilities, SRUC has a designated member of staff at each campus ("Campus Named Person") who acts as an impartial enabler of internal support for disclosed Care Experienced young people and carers who engage with SRUC. The named person coordinates with students, outside agencies, staff and any other relevant person. The Academic

Liaison Manager at the prospective or enrolled campus has oversight of this activity. The Corporate Parenting Group has cross-SRUC oversight and reports to the Student Support and Engagement Committee.

Table 1: Named Persons per Campus

Campus	Role of Named Persons
Aberdeen	Student Support Tutor (Pastoral)
Ayr	Student Support Tutor (Education)
Barony	Student Support Tutor (Pastoral)
Edinburgh (including Glasgow Botanic)	Student Support Tutor (Pastoral)
Elmwood	Student Support Tutor (Pastoral)
Oatridge	Student Support Tutor (Education) / Student Support Tutor (Pastoral)

This action plan continues to set out SRUC’s services and internal processes for students who are care experienced and carers and acknowledges “Getting it Right for Every Child” and the SHANARRI<sup>1</sup> principles which underpin it.

**Author: Corporate Parenting Group**

The plan is usually reviewed and approved by the Student Support and Engagement Committee at its Autumn meeting each year. This update was reviewed and updated by the Corporate Parenting Working Group in 2020-21, and signed off by the Committee in February 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> SHANARRI is the acronym for the eight wellbeing indicators which children and young people need to progress in order to do well now and in the future. These are; Safe; Healthy; Achieving; Nurtured; Active; Respected; Responsible; and Included.

## Plan

Table 2: Corporate Parenting Plan 2020/21-2022/23

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Timeline	Measurement	Covid Plan	Post Covid Plan
1. Understand the experience of students who identify themselves as care experienced or carers and ensure students understand the support on offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Update of Care Experienced survey to include Carers. Translation of survey to Microsoft Forms.</li> <li>+ Feedback on impact to be gathered and reviewed via survey.</li> <li>+ Update of leaflets and posters, reflecting faculty-based provision including flowchart for students regarding contact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Corporate Parenting Group</li> <li>+ Campus Named Persons</li> <li>+ Marketing and Student Recruitment Officers / Campus Named Persons</li> </ul>	<p>April 2021</p> <p>May (annually)</p> <p>May 2021</p>	<p>Updated survey</p> <p>Student Feedback</p> <p>Enquiries from organisations supporting care experienced young people and carers</p>	<p>Care experienced identified groups will have online drop-in sessions &amp; virtual chats per campus.</p> <p>Electronic versions available for all questionnaires / surveys / leaflets. Items available on Moodle. Feedback to be gained from potential new SRUCSA group representing the cohort</p>	
2. To have accessible and timely management information to ensure care experienced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Application updates to be provided detailing declared Care Experienced/Carers and other identified groups, under Care experience umbrella via Admissions Report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Admissions Manager</li> </ul>	<p>Autumn Term (annually)</p>	<p>Meeting records on UnitE/Teams to record individual discussions</p>	<p>Teams, information updated on sub-channels for each campus</p>	

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students and students who are carers are supported and monitored during their time with SRUC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Contact made with relevant students.</li> <li>+ Academic Liaison Manager and Year Tutors updated regarding students.</li> <li>+ Regular updates by Year Tutors / Academic Liaison Manager / Campus Named Persons, to enable reports to be formed, monitoring students' progress, attendance, and attainment, thus initiate any necessary interventions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Campus Named Persons</li> <li>+ Campus Named Persons</li> <li>+ Year Tutors / ALMs / Campus Named Persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autumn Term (annually)</li> <li>Autumn Term (annually)</li> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	Year Tutors' awareness of declarations		
3. Maximise care experienced and carer opportunities to succeed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Attendance report checks to be undertaken for relevant students with follow up with Campus Named Person or ALM as appropriate.</li> <li>+ Achievement checks and follow up by Year Tutors and reasons/support provided discussed with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Year Tutors</li> <li>+ Year Tutors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly</li> <li>Every term / semester</li> </ul>	Meeting records on UnitE/Teams		

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	<p>the student. Outcomes notified to Campus Named Person (who may also be involved in discussion and the provision of support as appropriate.</p> <p>+ End of year review of overall completion / achievement / progression, support (including financial), and feedback from relevant students leading to creation of annual report and any updates required to action plan.</p> <p>+ Report template to be developed to ensure consistency across faculties.</p>	<p>+ ALMs / Campus Named Person, overseen by Corporate Parenting Group</p> <p>+ Corporate Parenting Group/Head of Learning and Teaching.</p>	<p>August (annually)</p> <p>May (annually)</p>	<p>Annual Review Report with Action Plan</p>		
4. To promote SRUC as a FE/HE choice for those who are care experienced students and	+ Contact to be made with appropriate charities (Barnardo /others) and the local authorities within 25 miles of each campus indicating	+ Careers Advisors / Marketing and Student Recruitment Officer /	Ongoing	Detailed in annual report  Enquiries from organisations	Use of subgroups	

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students who are carers.	<p>SRUC's ability and willingness to provide next steps for those who are care experienced or known carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Continue to input to 'Who Cares?' and 'Propel' digital and printed materials and develop SRUC material (including website and prospectus and appropriate social media linkage to national campaigns).</li> <li>+ Inclusion in Scotland HE (Higher Education) Prospectus leaflet.</li> <li>+ Explore potential of 24/7, 365 days a year accommodation.</li> <li>+ Local links/support (local council emergency housing contact details etc.) to be created/updated for each campus.</li> </ul>	<p>Campus Named Persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Marketing and Student Recruitment Manager / Officers</li> <li>+ As above</li> <li>+ Residential Manager</li> <li>+ Campus Named Persons</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>June 2021</p> <p>June (annually)</p>	<p>supporting care experienced young people and carers</p>		
5. To ensure staff have the knowledge and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Participation in appropriate networks, including Colleges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Campus Named Persons</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Feedback as appropriate</p>		

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skills to support SRUC's services for care experienced students and carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Scotland, Who Cares? and CELCIS</li> <li>+ Staff development sessions provided, including specific development sessions for year tutors regarding corporate parenting processes.</li> <li>+ Participation in appropriate strategic sector level activities which support the development of SRUC's services to care experienced students and students who are carers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Corporate Parenting Group</li> <li>+ Campus Named Person</li> <li>+ Academic Liaison Managers</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff development sessions delivered</p> <p>Details included in annual report</p>		
6. To raise awareness of Academic and Executive Leadership Team and Board members of their Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Agree with SRUC Company Secretary (for Board) and Academic Director (for Executive Leadership Team) how awareness raising might best be undertaken. Expertise from Who</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Head of Learning and Teaching</li> </ul>	June 2021	Awareness raising activity undertaken		

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Parenting responsibilities	Cares? may be brought in.					